

## Army Presents Annual Research and Development Laboratory Awards

Meg Williams (Photos by SPC Adam R. Mancini, Army Visual Information Division)

**All 15 Army laboratories competed for the Annual Research and Development Laboratory (RDL) Awards — a testament to the strength of the Army's labs and the significant contributions their people are making to Army transformation and readiness.**

Claude M. Bolton Jr., the Army Acquisition Executive and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT); LTG John S. Caldwell Jr., Military Deputy to the ASAALT; and Dr. Thomas H. Killion, the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist, presented the RDL Awards at the 2003 Army Acquisition Corps Ball Oct. 5, 2003, at the Grand Hyatt Regency, Crystal City, VA.



Edward Doucette, NSC Director for Airdrop and Aerial Delivery, accepts the award for R&D Lab of the Year in the Small Lab Category.

"The labs that competed are to be commended for their outstanding research efforts and warfighter focus, as well as their support to Soldiers during *Operations Enduring Freedom*

and *Iraqi Freedom* and national Homeland Defense," Secretary Bolton remarked. "The rankings were close and the selection committee had an especially difficult time choosing this year's winners."

The Research and Development Laboratory of the Year (Small Lab Category) Award was presented to the Natick Soldier Center (NSC) for technology generation, application, transition and rapid fielding of equipment, and technology acceleration through strategic partnering and leveraging. NSC developed the *Scorpion Soldier Platform* achieving major breakthroughs in human factors engineering, biomechanics, anthropometrics and technology integration into the human platform. Edward Doucette, NSC Director for Airdrop and Aerial Delivery, accepted the award on behalf of "the brilliant and hardworking workers of NSC."

The Research and Development Laboratory of Excellence (Large Lab Category) Award was presented to the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) for its advanced warhead development. ARDEC created a single liner *Explosively*

*Formed Penetrator* resulting in a 60-percent increase in armor penetration over current warheads. ARDEC also implemented *Lean/Six Sigma* processes that resulted in more than \$700 million in life-cycle cost savings from completed projects. COL John A. Merkwan, ARDEC Commander, thanked the award committee and acquisition senior leaders for recognizing the people at ARDEC for being the Army's center of lethality.



COL John A. Merkwan, ARDEC Commander, accepts the award for R&D Lab of Excellence in the Large Lab Category.

The Research and Development Laboratory of the Year (Large Lab Category) Award was presented to the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) for one-stop life-cycle engineering,

technical and scientific support for aviation and missile weapon systems and their support systems, including *Unmanned Aviation Vehicle* platforms, robotic ground vehicles and various other systems.



Dr. William McCorkle, AMRDEC Director, accepts the award for R&D Lab of the Year in the Large Lab Category.

Specifically, AMRDEC's *Low-Cost Precision Kill Advanced Technology Demonstration*, a low-cost conversion using commercially available components, transformed the current HYDRA-70 unguided rocket into a precision strike weapon providing Hellfire level of accuracy with a cost reduction factor of 86 percent. In addition, AMRDEC's

implementation of an innovative, highly responsive *Prototype Integration Facility* helped it quickly develop and rapidly exploit technology, transitioning to fielded solutions in hours, days or weeks rather than years. "Our most important customers are Project Executive Offices (PEO) and Project Managers," said Dr. William McCorkle, AMRDEC Director, who accepted the award on behalf of the 2,400 people at AMRDEC. He also thanked AMRDEC's principal customers: PEO Air, Space and Missile Development; PEO Aviation; and PEO Tactical Missiles.

"The Army's labs are the enablers for the achievement of the Army vision, its objectives and the Army's transformation to the Future Force," LTG Caldwell stated. "These exceptional research and development organizations, like those recognized here tonight, will continue to provide the unmatched technical advantage in support of our non-negotiable contract with the American people — to fight

and win our Nation's wars," he concluded.

The RDL awards program was established in 1975 to honor Army research and development labs that have made outstanding contributions in science and technology, providing the Army's warfighters with the best capabilities in the world. The RDL awards recognize labs for their outstanding contributions and their impact on enhancing the capability of Army operational forces worldwide.

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## SSC Welcomes New Commander

**On Oct. 10, 2003**, the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center (SSC), Natick, MA, welcomed new commander COL David Bongi during a ceremony in Hunter Auditorium. Bongi was introduced as the Installation Commander and Acting Deputy Commanding General for Operational Readiness, U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), a new command headquartered in Edgewood, MD.

Bongi previously was assigned as SSC's Director of Security for Homeland Operations. Homeland Operations transferred to U.S. Army Forces Command and will no longer be represented at Natick. The RDECOM position details still need to be finalized

with RDECOM headquarters and the Army Materiel Command, but the duties will be focused on providing integrated and responsive technologies and support to current military operations, and to quickly adapt advanced or near-term technologies into military systems.

Bongi replaces BG Craig Peterson, who served as Deputy Commanding General for Homeland Operations and Installation Commander since July 2002.

For more information about SSC, go to <http://www.natick.army.mil>.